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Human Rights Developments 9

Argentina may have reined in its security forces;

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Human Rights Developments

The Argentine Government has apparently decided that conditions no longer justify giving the security forces free rein.

In a speech at a national police conference last week, Interior Minister General Harguindeguy declared that emergency measures had almost completely eradicated subversion and that it was therefore no longer necessary or advisable for the police to remain under the direct operational control of the various military commands. Presumably acting under the direction of President Videla or the military junta, Harguindeguy has also issued instructions to the police to stop bullying the public and to restore normal police procedures.

These moves suggest that Harguindeguy, one of Argentina's toughest and most conservative Army generals, has adopted a more moderate posture, at least with regard to counterterrorist tactics. In the past, these operations were often directed against political leaders and other civilians not connected with subversive organizations or activities. 3.5(c)

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